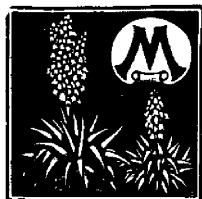


GERANIUMS.



R. A. McNEILL'S lecture before the Grimsby Horticultural Society on the evening of March 9th, was very interesting. A large number of the members were present and were ready with their questions in order to elicit as much information as possible. Mr. McNeill in the course of his lecture gave the names of such plants as he believed the amateur might grow in the house

with the greatest success, as, for instance, geraniums, which will endure a great deal of hard usage and yet give a large amount of bloom. They are easy of propagation either from seed or cuttings. In making cuttings he advises taking points and breaking them off where the wood is sufficiently mature, that is, where it will bend a little and then snap off with a square break. These cuttings should be placed in moist earth at a temperature of about 60 degrees. An easy way to start cuttings is to take a glass filled with lake sand saturated with water and insert the cuttings as thick as they will stand. Place them in the shade and in a few weeks you will have well rooted cuttings. When the roots are about three-quarters of an inch long, you may plant the cuttings in good soil. The best soil is made by mixing one-third sand, one-third garden soil and one-third of the bulk of barn manure. Soil is very important to the best success. The cuttings should be first planted in small thumb pots, if you want the best success. Fill the pot about half full of soil, place the plant on this and add soil until nearly full, firming it well. In such little pots drainage is unnecessary for geraniums. It is a good plan to bed the pots of plants in boxes of sand, as in such a condition they are not so apt to dry out. The plants should be transplanted to larger pots when the roots have well filled the smaller ones. If the first pots are say two and half inches in diameter, the next size should be three and a half inches. It is never well to use too large a pot. The season of blooming can be regulated by the time of propagation. If plants are required for winter blooming, propagate them early in July and do not give them very much water until late in the fall, and then in October give them additional heat and moisture and they will start into a vigorous growth and be in a condition for winter blooming.

Mr. McNeill gave these details with regard to cuttings, because he had been asked to make his lecture as elementary as possible, and the methods which are suitable for propagating geraniums are also applicable to other plants. In his list of plants with which the amateur might expect success, he named the following, in addition to the geranium viz:—fuchsias, begonias, palms, calla lilies, coleuses, and dahlias.

DAHLIAS.

In his address, Mr. McNeill referred to the propagation of the dahlia. He said that usually amateurs plant too many buds and it was a mistake to